

## HISTORY OF THE WAR.

## VI.

## THE CAMPAIGN IN ASIA MINOR.

A week since we were in a position to announce that the Czar, disheartened by the results of the campaign in Asia Minor, had given orders for the withdrawal of the Russian forces from Armenia. Since then the fullest confirmation has been given to this intelligence. The siege of Kars has been completely raised, and the positions so recently held by the Russians on the east, or Russian side of the fortress, are now occupied by Turkish troops. In an official communication the Russian Government have declared that for strategic reasons they have thought it advisable to discontinue the bombardment of Kars, and to remove their siege train to Alexandropol. The left column, under General Tergukassoff, has been enabled by forced marches to regain the Russian frontier, with the loss of artillery and large quantities of munitions and provisions; and that section of the right column which besieged Batoum has been compelled by Dervish Pasha to seek shelter within Russian territory. With respect to Bayazid, which is situated on the southern slopes of Mount Ararat, and consequently close to the frontier, conflicting accounts have reached us. But assuming that the Russian garrison has been relieved and the town destroyed, the Government of the Czar must be thankful for very small mercies if they make that circumstance the occasion for special rejoicing. Those who have watched the progress of the campaign, and who hold the exceptional position of standing impartially between both parties, will rejoice if the gallant garrison has been at length relieved, and it must be confessed that the manner in which it held out constitutes at least one bright spot in the history of the campaign as conducted by the Russians. Never in the history of warfare was defeat more crushing than that which has been sustained by the invaders in Asia Minor. Even now it seems completely inexplicable that the Russian armies should, in little more than a fortnight's time, have come to such unutterable grief. We have always entertained the opinion that in such a country as Armenia the Russians, however well appointed, had before them a task which would test their endurance and their energy to the utmost, and we expressed the belief that, notwithstanding their superiority in numbers, they would ultimately fail. But we candidly confess we never thought that within a few weeks from the commencement of the war, and after having sustained no very extraordinary defeats, the Russian commander-in-chief would be compelled to desist from offensive operations, and to withdraw, however temporarily, behind his own frontier.

If we review the history of the campaign, there is nothing which has been brought to our knowledge to explain this wonderful *hasco*. The Russians advanced without resistance to Kars, and in the first week in May succeeded in investing that fortress and in establishing their siege batteries. In the Euphrates Valley the left column occupied Bayazid without much trouble, and with an uninterrupted line of communication pushed forward and, repelling the Turks, forced its way into the valley of the Araxes. To the north the right column was almost as successful, for although Batoum held out, Ardahan surrendered without firing a shot, and the road was opened to Erzeroum. On the 18th of June everything promised well for the Russians. Moukhtar Pasha had retired behind the Soghanli to avoid having his position turned. The left column of the Russians was on the southern bank of the Araxes. The centre, having left a sufficient force to mask Kars, was in front of Zewin, and the right column had the road open from Ardahan by way of Ardenutsh to any point between the Soghanli and Erzeroum, where it might be able to join the left column and centre. About this date two battles were fought, one with the left column on the Araxes, the other with the centre in front of Zewin. In both the Turks were victorious, but the losses inflicted on the enemy, though severe, were not in excess of what a commander-in-chief would have taken into his calculations. But, nevertheless, strange though it may seem, these battles decided the result of the campaign. No sooner were the Russians beaten than the centre and left commenced to retire, and the campaign in Asia came virtually to an end.

## VII.

## THE RUSSIAN MARCH TO THE BALKANS.

We shall not recall the passage of the Danube, which was fully described both pictorially and otherwise in the *News*, but shall proceed at once with the advance to the Balkans. The Grand Duke Nicholas has firmly established his headquarters at Tirnova. From this town—the ancient Bulgarian capital—there are roads leading to several of the chief passes of the Balkans, and notably those known as the Shipka, the Travna, the Hain Boghaz, the Elena, and the Demir Kapou or Iron Gate passes. The first accounts of the crossing of the Balkans by the Russians were somewhat confusing, for at first they were reported to have mastered the Shipka Pass to the extreme right of Tirnova—a highly important position—and then to have forced the Iron Gate Pass to the extreme left of Tirnova. Where the Russians really crossed was at Hain Boghaz, a small pass, merely a mule track, some 4,000 feet high, between the Travna and Elena passes, and a little to the south-east of Tirnova. There General Gourko, with an advance guard of Cossacks and dragoons, appears, on Saturday, the 14th inst., to have surprised the small Turk-

ish force which was posted there, and to have gained possession of the pass. Next day General Gourko advanced still further, and fought another engagement near Arzazare, during which Raouf Pasha, coming up with a strong reinforcement, compelled him to retire with loss, not, however, before a detachment of Cossacks had appeared at Yeni Zagra—a station on the Jamboli-Adrianople railway—and had created a terrible panic amongst the inhabitants and officials of the district. According, however, to later and more independent accounts, General Gourko, by a clever manœuvre, circumvented the Turks, passed the Balkans, and then marched upon Kazanlik, a town at the Roumelian end of the Shipka Pass, in order to take that important position in the rear. Raouf Pasha, however, was soon strongly reinforced by Suleiman Pasha with 20,000 men from Montenegro, so that an important battle may be shortly expected, in which the Russians, unless heavily reinforced, will be, numerically speaking, at a great disadvantage.

The news that the Russians had so easily succeeded in crossing the Balkans had a very dispiriting effect upon the Turks, more especially as the troops seemed nowhere to be opposing any really efficient resistance to the Russian advance. Various reasons are stated for this inactivity, ranging from the supposition that it is part of a deeply-laid plan by which the Russians will be cut off in the rear by and by, to rumours that Russian gold is blinding the eyes of the Turkish commanders, and that the Turks, while holding their troops in important positions, allow the Russians to advance in order to induce some other European power to come to their assistance. Be this as it may, the Russians are leaving troops to watch each fortified place, but are pushing forward towards the capital with their main body with a boldness and audacity which would cost them dear did the Turkish commanders possess any average military skill or energy. As it is, the Russians are making good their advance throughout the line of the Dobrudzha as well as in Bulgaria, and it is stated that Kustendjie, abandoned by the Turks, is now in Russian occupation. As the Russians occupy each place they replace the Mussulman officials by Christians, though as a rule they find but few Mussulmans to replace, so great is the dread of the Muscovite inspired by the reports of the terrible cruelties committed by the Cossacks and the armed Bulgarians. The Turkish Government have published circumstantial accounts of the most sickening atrocities and massacres of women and children committed by the Russians, and one, the complete massacre of a long train of some 300 fugitives from the village of Heibeli, is corroborated by a correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, who testifies to have seen twenty-one of the victims who had escaped, women with lance thrusts and sword cuts, and children of both sexes wounded in the most frightful manner. According to the accounts he heard, the Cossacks, becoming tired of hacking the fugitives, brought up some field guns and literally mowed the poor wretches down.

## VIII.

## THE BATTLE OF PLEVNA.

On the last page of the present issue will be found a small map on which is indicated the site of the town of Plevna, where the first pitched battle of the war was fought on Monday, the 30th ult., resulting in a great victory for the Turks. The Turkish force was estimated at 50,000. They occupied a series of positions, which are naturally strong, and also artificially fortified in every available spot, forming a horseshoe in front of Plevna, with both flanks resting on the river side. The Russian forces consisted of the 9th Army Corps, under General Krudener, the 30th Division, and the 30th Brigade of the 2nd Division, under Prince Schackosky, with three brigades of cavalry and 16 guns. It was arranged that General Krudener should attack the Turkish centre at Grivica and the northern flank of the entrenched position over Rahora, while Schackosky attacked Radizvo, and Gen. Skoledeff held in check the strong Turkish force at Laoca, which was the extremity of the Turkish line. Krudener began the battle at about 9.30. After a strong bombardment, he succeeded in silencing the Turkish cannon at Grivica, but could never expel the infantry from the earthworks. He spent the whole afternoon unavailingly endeavouring to force the northern flank of the Turkish position, desisting after dark without having gained anything material, and having himself suffered considerable loss. Schackosky about noon carried Radizevo, and, planting four batteries on the ridge beyond, bombarded the nearest Turkish position, which was an earthwork armed with cannon in front of an entrenched village. After an hour's cannonade, he silenced the Turkish guns, and his infantry, after a long and bloody contest, carried the earthwork and village. The second Turkish position, consisting of a redoubt and a series of entrenched vineyards strongly held, was then attacked, and ultimately carried, but with a terrible effort and very severe loss, owing to the heavy Turkish artillery fire. The Russians, moreover, were unable to utilize the captured position. About 4 o'clock a reserve brigade was brought up and an attack made on positions immediately covering Plevna. The attack continued till near sunset. The Turkish infantry was in great force in a continuous line under shelter of trenches. Despite the most stubborn efforts, no impression could be made upon the line. Two companies of Russian infantry did work round to the right of the Turkish trenches, and entered Plevna, but it was impossible to

hold it. The Russian batteries pushed boldly forward into the position first taken, to attempt to keep down the Turkish cannonade, which was crashing into the infantry in open field, but they were compelled soon to evacuate the hazardous spot. At sundown the Turks made a continuous forward movement, and reoccupied their second position. The Russian infantry made a succession of desperate stands, and died like heroes. The Turks gradually retook everything they had lost. The fighting lasted long after nightfall. With darkness the Bashi-Bazouks took possession of the battle field, and slew all the wounded. The Russians held the heights about Radizevo, but the Bashi-Bazouks worked around to their rear, and fell on the wounded collected in Radizevo. Retreat was compelled in the direction of Bulgarena, and the contingencies resulting from this untoward battle are of ominous significance.

## BRELOQUES POUR DAMES.

THE girl who said she would not marry the best man living compromised by marrying one of the worst.

AN urchin, not quite three years old, said to his sister, while munching a piece of gingerbread, "Sis, take half ob dis cake to keep till arternoon, when I get cross."

"The dearest object to me on earth is my wife," said Jones.—"Well, I'm pretty close to you," said Smith, "for the dearest thing to me is my wife's wardrobe."

A SCHOOL-MISTRESS, about to marry a widower with a number of children, sent in her resignation to the committee, because she "had engaged, for an indefinite period of time, as an assistant in a private family."

THE surest sign in the world that they are married is when they enter some public place and she reaches up and pulls down his coat collar, instead of leaning back and picking out soft smiles to throw at him.

THIS is the season when newly-married couples make their appearance at the watering-place hotels, languish on a four-dollar-a-day diet for a week precisely, and then go home to the realities of corn beef and cabbage for the balance of their natural lives.

"A DISTRESSED mother" writes to a country newspaper for advice, which she gets thusly: "The only way to cure your son of staying out 'late o' nights' is to break his legs, or to get the girl he runs after to do your housework."

"CHARLIE, my dear," said a loving mother to her hopeful son, just budding into breeches, "Charlie, my dear, come here and get some candy.—'I guess I won't mind it now, mother," replied Charles; "I've got in some tobacco."

To sit on a sofa between two pretty girls, one with black eyes, jet ringlets and rosy cheeks, the other with soft blue eyes, sunny ringlets, and red cheeks and lips, and both laughing at you at the same time. We know of nothing more trying.

He waltzed out of the front door, followed by a washing-board and two bars of soap; and as he straightened himself, and walked firmly down the street, he remarked, "A man must draw the line somewhere, or he can't be boss of the house; and I'll be hanged if I'll pump more than one tub of water for no washing, and there ain't a woman can make me do it, unless she locks me in."

SHE is a shrewd old woman. A young sprig of a lawyer stepped up one day and said to her, "You seem to have some fine apples; are they sweet or sour?" The old lady tried to take the measure of her customer, and find out whether his taste was for sweet or sour apples. "Why, sir," said she, "they are rather acid; a sort of low tart, inclined to be very sweet."

## THE GLEANER.

THE marriage of the King of Spain with the daughter of the Duke de Montpensier, according to common and even official report, is to be solemnized in October.

A POPULAR minister recently gave a lecture on "Fools." The tickets of admission were inscribed "Lecture on Fools." "Admit one." There was a large audience.

MARRIED men live longer than single ones. Ninety-nine persons in a hundred marry. More marriages occur in June and December than in any other months.

AMONGST the novelties of the day is a billiard table with an iron bed. It is said that slate is much affected by atmosphere, and iron is not, and besides offers the most perfect surface possible. The whole frame work of this new table is also of iron, which, perforated and ornamented, allows of places for cues, balls, and chalk. Upon the iron bed is a slight coating of some nonabsorbent material, offering so fine a surface that the green cloth may almost be dispensed with.

DR. ERASMUS WILSON has been engaged in an investigation of the number of hairs contained in a square inch of the surface of the human head. He estimates that each square inch contains 744 hair follicles, and that as a large number of these give passage to two hairs, the number on a square inch may probably be estimated at about 1,066, and the superficial area of the head being about 120 square inches, this equals about 133,920 hairs for the entire head.

## WHAT EVERYBODY SAYS MUST BE TRUE.

The incontrovertible testimony offered by those who have used Dr. Pierce's Favourite Prescription induced the doctor to sell it under a positive guarantee. Many ladies have refrained from using it on account of a general feeling of prejudice against advertised medicines. Let me ask a question. Are you prejudiced against sewing machines because you have seen them advertised? or can you doubt the ingenuity and skill required in their invention? Again, would you refuse to insure your house because the company advertised that it had paid millions in losses, and yet had a capital of several millions? Do such advertisements shake your confidence, and create prejudices? Then, why refuse to credit the testimony of those who have found the Favourite Prescription to be all that is claimed for it in overcoming those ailments peculiar to your sex? Why submit to the use of harsh, and perhaps caustic treatment, thus aggravating your malady, when relief is guaranteed, and a positive, perfect, and permanent cure has been effected in thousands of cases?

WABASH STATION, Ill., October 24th, 1876.  
R. V. PIERCE, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y.:

Dear Sir—Allow me to extend my most sincere thanks to you for the great benefit my wife has received from the use of your Favourite Prescription. She suffered almost intolerably before using your medicine, and I had tried the skill of several physicians, but to no purpose. Finally I thought I would give the Favourite Prescription a trial, and she is now sound and well.

Very gratefully yours, D. A. HUNTER.

## MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

LONDON has had 800 nights of "Our Boys."

THE left side of Vieuxtemps is completely paralyzed.

RUBINSTEIN has received the decoration of the Legion of Honour.

MAX MARÉTZKE is composing an opera for Misses Kelllogg and Cary.

M. GOUNOD's "Cinq Mars" will be produced in Italian next winter at the Scala in Milan.

THE revival of "La Reine de Chypre" at the Grand Opéra is said to have cost \$250,000fr.

FLOROW, the composer of "Martha," is putting the finishing touches to his new opera "Les Musiciens."

THE King of Spain, it is understood, intends to establish a permanent French theatre at the Court of Madrid.

ADELINA PATTI has lost much of her arch vivacity and gaiety. She has grown thinner, and her face is worn. She has evidently suffered intensely.

M. OFFENBACH is completing, at Saint Germain, the score of a serious opera, the "Contes d'Hoffmann," which is to be represented at the Théâtre Lyrique, Paris, during the Exhibition.

PATTI's divorce suit has demonstrated that some of the magnificent royal presents made her in the glowing paragraphs of the European press, were bought and paid for by the vocalist herself.

M. DUMAS has consented to a lyric drama being founded upon one of his father's stories, "Le Bâton de Mauléon." The music will be from the pen of M. Paul Puget, who carried off the Prix de Rome in 1873.

WAGNER's "Flying Dutchman" was performed at the London Covent Garden Opera before an empty house. With the exception of Albani and Marel, the performance was, according to the English press, "slipshod."

M. MASSENET, the author of *Le Roi de Lahore*, is busy with the composition of an opera in five acts. The subject is taken from the history of King Robert the Pious, whose marriage with his cousin led to his excommunication.

MR. LECOCQ, the composer of "La Fille de Madame Angot," and a dozen other opera bouffes, a man who in originality of genius is even more than the rival of Offenbach, will personally instruct Alice Oates this summer, in Paris, in four of his new works.

ETHELKA GERSTER (who was to have outshone Albani and Patti, judging by the preliminary puffs,) turns out to have made but an average success. Her voice is weak in the lower and middle registers, and she does best in passages which employ the higher notes of the voice.

SANTLEY, the singer, lives in a pleasant house in St. John's Wood, London, and amuses himself with chemistry, mathematics and the culture of choice fowls. He married a daughter of John Mitchell Kemble, the son of Charles Kemble, and delights in filling his house with memorials of the theatre.

MR. E. L. DAVENPORT is engaged upon a historical play, by the late George H. Miller, of Baltimore, entitled "Oliver Cromwell," and also an entire new three act play, purchased from him by J. S. Clark, in London, where it has been most successful, entitled "Mammon," both of which will be given to the public early in the season.

A LONDON correspondent notes that the best talent has mostly quit writing for the stage. And this notwithstanding the larger prices that are given to successful new compositions than formerly. The reason assigned is that authors find elsewhere a more tempting employment for their pens, especially in periodical literature and journalism.

BEETHOVEN's "Adieu to the Pianoforte," was written years after the composer was dead; and the "Dream of St. Jerome," so pathetically alluded to by Thackeray, had no more to do with Beethoven than the piece already mentioned. Weber's "Last Waltz" is by Reissiger, and was published in a collection of waltzes by that composer, by an English music-seller, forty years ago. The air known as the "Harmonious Blacksmith," is not by Handel, and no blacksmith was in the slightest degree mixed up with it. Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata," "Sonata Pastorale," and "Sonata Appassionata," had no such sensational prefixes in the composer's manuscript; and the mere mention of the ridiculous titles which have been given to Mendelssohn's *Lieder ohne Worte*—the "Bees' Wedding" being one of the most truly absurd examples—would have driven their sensitive author distracted.